



## Operations Report

Website: - <http://wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/>

### Introduction

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 infection risks, this work party was organised to meet the requirements of our own Covid 19 risk assessment outcomes. In general terms, the work areas were well spaced out to avoid crowding.

The August work party ran over two weeks. Those two weeks contained the most variable summer weather we have seen for a long time. It started dry and warmish, became extremely hot and sunny then the thunderstorms and heavy showers began. Even with the amount of rain we had, the excavators and dumpers were still able to reach Whitehouses. On the second Wednesday the weather was so bad the work party was suspended for a day. Many days started with water being pumped out at Bridge 4.

The work party was a success and there were some big strides forward.

### Work Detail

The detail of the various jobs and tasks has been condensed because a lot happened over the two weeks and there is only space for the headlines!

Over two weeks there were a large amount of detailed jobs and materials delivery. With access to Whitehouses now possible, materials were moved local to the work site.

#### **New walls at Bridge 4.**

The block work was completed and each of the hollow block "holes" had a reinforcing rod inserted then filled with concrete. A layer of waterproofing was added to the block surfaces. The brick work on the offside was started (this incorporates the stop plank channels) and is now around 2/3 built.



Here is the offside brick work being built up around the stainless-steel stop plank channel.

The white material is the expansion joint between the new wall and Bridge 4 abutments.

**At Whitehouses**, the existing pipe capping was extended with reinforced ready-mix concrete to reach the manhole. Each end of the capping has a step down to accommodate the concrete beams that go across the manhole.

The area for the new wing wall foundations was excavated, levelled, had form work made up and the concreting was completed by using ready mixed concrete. (in pouring rain!) Following on from that, form work was built up to enable the “front apron” support concreting to be completed.

Following on from the wing wall foundations being laid, the block work was started and completed over the course of the work party.

The manhole was uncovered, and the top layers of the chamber bricks removed to the required height. Concrete floor beams and solid concrete blocks were used to cover the manhole. More concrete was applied on both sides to limit the beams’ sideways movement. It will be possible to lift the beams for access to the manhole until the Bentomat is laid over the whole area. Longer term it will be possible to identify the manhole position and get access for any maintenance that may be required.



Whitehouses showing completed foundations and block work.

The concrete mixer is on the new pipe capping extension. Just next to that are the beams covering the manhole entrance.

**Whitehouses Fencing** The fence at Whitehouses land reclamation was completed. We had a short handover ceremony to Keith Slade, the tenant farmer who will now use the land for sheep grazing. We have now informed Herts CC that the land is no longer being used by WAT and is now being used by their tenant farmer.



Here is Leanda (vice Chairman) sitting on the new fence during our “handover” ceremony to Keith.

## **Car park hut**

A small flat pack hut was delivered, a base was laid, and the hut assembled in a position next to the car park entrance. This now contains the equipment and materials to deal with C19. It is also used to store some pieces of equipment. All signing in and H and S information is within this hut so that volunteers can be briefed daily on the current situation as they come on to the work site.

## **Brick cleaning**

Over the course of the work party a backup (but important) job was to clean up the old bricks that came from the old Swing bridge walls. A large stack has now been cleaned ready for when we start on the wall restoration.

## Environmental Group

Having recognised that a large part of restoration concerns Environmental issues, a new subgroup has been initiated. They will look after and advise us on all things environmental, ranging from butterflies to beetles, Ash trees to reeds and make sure we improve the environment local to the canal whenever we can.

## Full Contractor Appraisal

We were recently informed by CRT that our application to be an Approved Contractor has been signed off. We are now an Approved Contractor to CRT!

## Conclusion

It was amazing just how much we got done despite the weather and C19. We now have two more very capable Team Leaders and both of those together with the volunteers should be congratulated for working in the weather conditions we had.

We also had 3 new volunteers and a CRT Apprentice join us this month, we must be doing something right?

## Picture gallery



What more could you ask for on a very hot day?

Ice creams delivered from Tring!



Another hot day.  
Two volunteers take a well-deserved break from the sun, in the shade



Just to show that we had a considerable amount of rain.  
Just right for our Gnome to fish for Sticklebacks!

Tony Bardwell

Operations Director